

I am Warren T. Olds Jr. here and I am with the Southeast Region of the Fish and Wildlife Service here in Atlanta Georgia and I am here in Marietta Georgia this morning visiting with the Fermanich's and Carl I will go ahead and let you start out and tell us what you would like to like mabey where were you born, where did you grow up, and that sort of thing.

**Carl** Well I was born in an little town of Mattoon Wisconsin.

**Olds** Mattoon Wisconsin

**Carl** Yes about six or seven hundred people. Born in 1912 and I went to highschool there.

**Olds** Where was that Mattoon High School?

**Carl** Right and after High School I went to Oshkosh Wisconsin to Oshkosh College and spent three and a half years there. Mainly I majored in you might say in Accounting, and Auditing and after three and a half years. It was during the depression time and I had an opportunity to take a job and the jobs were scarce so I grabbed it. I did not finish school.

**Olds** What was you first job there that you got a chance at ?

**Carl** The first job was with the Northern Hemlock and Hardwood Manufacturers Association and the type of work was primarily statistical and well just briefly that is it. Do you want to get this young lady in or no?

**Olds** Do you want to introduce yourself?

**Leone** Fermanich

**Olds** And how do you spell that Leona?

**Leone** Leone and I come from the same town that Carl does from Mattoon . I went to high school there and then I went to Teachers College in Langlade. County

**Olds** Langlade County

Leone Teachers College yes and then I taught country school for five years and later on after my son was in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade I taught Catholic school for another ten.

**Olds** Where were those schools located?

**Leone** Well my first school was in Wisconsin Langlade County in the country then Carl and I were married and I stopped teaching. Then we had a daughter and a son and when Nick was a 6<sup>th</sup> grader in Catholic school I taught for another 10 years.

**Olds** My goodness that is great. Where did you folks meet while you were in highschool?

**Carl** Well actually Tom you might call us childhood sweat hearts. Not really though we knew each other from probably the first year of highschool on. We did not start dating until after I was out of highschool we have known each other almost all of our lives. The same little town and I would see her walking to school, and I thought well you know I kinda like that, but never dated her until out of highschool.

**Olds** Well that was kinda of like my wife and I. We think that we played with each other when we were about 5 years old, but we don't really remember each other until highschool. **Olds** When did you graduate from highschool?

**Carl** Mattoon highschool.

**Olds** What year was that?

**Carl** That was 29 I believe.

**Olds** 1929 Right when the hard depression was in it.

**Carl** Yes Right in the hard, like I mentioned before I was fortunate enough to go to college

to 3 and ½ years during these bad years. Then as fortunate enough to get a job it did not pay much.

**Olds** You say that was with the?

**Carl** Northern Hemlock and Hardwood Manufactures Association. Just very briefly that is a group of lumber manufactures in Wisconsin and Michigan at that time they formed the Association and they has a office in Oshkosh in Wisconsin. I worked for them for 3 and ½ years.

**Olds** So you worked for this Association for 3 and ½ years?

**Carl** Yes

**Olds** Was it at about that point that you got a chance to come with the service or did you have? **Carl** No

**Olds** Well what did you do from there?

**Carl** Let me see.

**Olds** Alright

**Leone** I can remember that day that Carl got a letter. I remember living in Rib Lake Wisconsin

**Olds** What was that?

**Leone** Rib Lake Wisconsin it was Civil Service and he had gotten this job in 51 that he had wanted at the refugee. I like refugee.

**Olds** What refugee was that Carl?

**Carl** Can I come back ok

**Olds** Tell me anything that you would like.

**Carl** Well after I left the Northern Hemlock and Hardwood. Then I went with the Interior Department with at the Menominee Indian Mills in Neopit Wisconsin. They were a lumber manufacture and had belonged to this association I mentioned and just from working with some there people that job there which was better than the one I had, so I grabbed it.

**Olds** So this was with the department of Interior and Menominee Indian mills.

**Carl** It was on a reservation Menominee Indian Reservation in Wisconsin and oh I don't know I say there about 2 and ½ years.

**Olds** Now at that time was there a Bureau of Indian Affairs that you worked for or you just worked for the people there on the reservation?

**Carl** I am not sure if there was a Bureau of Indian Affairs or not. I know that it was pretty operated by the interior department. I do not recall ever seeing Bureau Indian Affairs, of any letter heads or anything else.

**Olds** So you stayed with them/

**Carl** About 2 and ½ years and in the mean time I married my sweet little wife. We decided that it would be good to probably get a little better jobs.

**Olds** When did you folks get married?

**Carl** 1938

**Olds** Where were you married? In Wisconsin?

**Carl** Right in Mattoon Wisconsin

**Olds** Mattoon Wisconsin

**Carl** Yes

**Olds** So were you successful at getting a job that was a little bit better that the one before.

**Carl** Yes one of the bosses that I was working for in the Menominee Indian Mills was

moving to the Rib Lake Lumber Company as the General Manager. I had the opportunity to go along with them and I did. We moved to the Rib Lake Lumber Company in Rib Lake Wisconsin he was General Manager there and I was his slave. Actually I worked in sales and other things to. From that time do you just want me to go on.

**Olds** Sure

**Carl** My next position was with the Rib Lake Lumber Company and how many years I was there was from another couple of years there I believe and then I had a chance to go back with Interior at the Necedah National Island Refugee in Wisconsin.

**Olds** Necedah

**Carl** Yes I took that job it was a reduction in the pay but we felt that the future would probably be a lot better than working for a Lumber Company. Which was on the verge of having as cut off and in another words only temporary. So that was where we went next and I was Assistant Refugee Manager there. I was there from 1935 to 1938 now some of these dates might not be right but pretty close and then in 1943. I am missing something here anyhow, I transferred from the Necedah Refugee to the Regional Office in Minneapolis and I worked there until 1952. The administrative unit primarily also in the Wildlife Refugee portion.

**Olds** So you worked both in the refugee side and in the administration side.

**Carl** Started in the Administration side? But I always liked the wildlife refugee work and the opportunity that it presented itself and there was an opening for the Wildlife refugee program that lead to a transfer to North Dakota to the Des lacs National Wildlife refugee and I was refugee manager there until 54 and then had an opportunity to come to Atlanta as Assistant Wildlife Refugee Supervisor and so we made that move it was quite a big one.

**Olds** Yeah Quite a change to go from Minneapolis to Atlanta.

**Carl** We only knew one person here in Atlanta and he was the Assistant Regional Director a man by the name of Walter Gresh. I am sure that you probably run across his name.

**Olds** Oh yes I sure have.

**Carl** Incidentally his wife still lives in this area.

**Olds** Lets see that's Barney

**Leone** Yeah that's right

**Carl** From Atlanta I had the opportunity to transfer to Washington D.C. as a Assistant Chief in the Division of Wildlife Refugees I transferred there in 62. Stayed down there until my retirement in 67.

**Olds** You retired in 67?

**Carl** Yes My main duties especially in Washington and had been also in Nevada was selecting and rough mapping prospective view of new Wildlife Refugee areas and was in a sense I guess you could say I had some responsibility in the administration of the 200 reference at that time.

**Olds** I know that was a lot.

**Carl** Yes

**Olds** Do you say you were the Assistant Chief of the refugees while you were in Washington?

**Carl** Do you recall who the Chief of Refugees at that time if you would ?

**Carl** Yes J Clark Sawyer

**Olds** J Clark Sawyer

**Carl** Yes and during my time there Mr. Salyer became quite ill and was only able to work really part time and Eugene E Crawford came in from probably Boston I am not sure and more less took over the chief's job. I worked very closely with him and he had also been in acting chief at the drive I knew him from there and other places to. So

**Olds** I was gonna back up a little bit you said before you went to Washington you were here in Atlanta in the southeast Region as an Assistant Refugee Supervisor and I was wondering who was the Refugee Supervisor at that time?

**Carl** Well my long time friend and boss Frances C Gillette who was also the supervisor of Minneapolis. Then came to Atlanta and the supervisor here then transferred to Washington and I worked with him or under him in Washington so in 3 different places I worked with Mr. Gillette.

**Olds** So when he was in Washington was he supervisor of refugees after Salyer

**Carl** Yes

**Olds** I did not have a chance to meet him but I worked with his son, a lot he was Gillette's son Jim

**Carl** Jim O yes

**Olds** I worked with him Quite a bit. I met him when I was in Washington and worked with him quite a bit.

**Carl** We I believe that Elizabeth is still but I'm not certainly, it's the man's wife.

**Olds** I don't know Jim is located over at on the Eastern Shore in Virginia and I need to try to call him and mabey get out with him to. I would like to do an interview with Jim.

**Carl** I am sure you could go by the background because the fact that his father was in the service for so many years.

**Olds** Now when Gillette was here in Atlanta as the Regional Supervisor of Refugees Walt Gresh was what the Assistant regional director at that time under Jim Silvers?

**Carl** I believe so it may be that Walt took over as Regional Director during that time I am not quite certain.

**Olds** That would probably be about the time that Jim Silver retired and Walt took over as Regional Director. Do you remember some of the refugees that you folks were surveying as potential new refugees at that time?

**Carl** All yes Marian islands was one I cant remember there is more I cant think of them in my mind now Tom. Marian Island particularly because I spent quite a lot of time down there.

**Olds** That is really a showcase refugee now ?

**Carl** Is it

**Olds** Yes it sure is.

**Carl** I have not been there in several years, but the last time that I was there I think it was Harold O'Connor that was the manager.

**Olds** Oh yes

**Carl** Do you run into him?

**Olds** Oh yes I have known Harold for a number of years. I met him after he was married down in Washington and Hal and I worked together during my time in Washington and then since then he ended up as the Director of the Protuxa of the Wildlife Research Center and of course while I was down here in Atlanta we had a number of occasions to work in Puerto Rico together. He had stations in Puerto Rico and I had stations in Puerto Rico and we worked together quite a bit. So I have seen Hal a number of times, both at the Protuxa and at Puerto Rico. In fact I got an announcement just a few months ago that he had decided to retire. He and his wife were I think gonna move to Williamsburg Virginia for their

retirement.

**Carl** I wonder why Williamsburg.

**Olds** I don't know why they picked Williamsburg?

**Carl** Well it would be a wonderful place to retire because it is very interesting.

**Olds** It certainly is I don't know if there is a good golf course there.

**Carl** Well mabey

**Olds** I am sure there is. Any other things about you're career with the Service that you would like to talk about.

**Carl** Well I was quite fortunate being able to serve in 2 different regions and 2 different Wildlife refugees and also some central office. I met a lot of interesting people made a lot of friends. Leone made more than I did. We still try to look some of them up especially a lot move down to the florida area.

**Olds** Well you folks had been here in Atlanta before you moved to Washington and you were in Washington before you retired and you decided to move back to Atlanta there after you retired.

**Carl** Well we made a little move prior to that we went to Wisconsin, I have a few brothers that lived up there at that time and they were in business and they wanted me to come up and help, my older brother thought that he needed my help. We decided that Leone folks were still alive and all of our kin's you might say lived up in Wisconsin. We decided to go back and Leone could not take the harsh climate so we decided that possibly Atlanta was the best place for us to move to so we did it. But we did not come back to the job. That was the end of my work as far as Fish and Wildlife was concerned.

**Olds** Now Harold Dixon who retired here in Atlanta as the Assistant Region of Director for the Fish and Wildlife just moved back to Wisconsin.

**Carl** Is that right

**Olds** Yeah he and his wife apparently had a farm there at I cat remember the little town now it's kinda in central Wisconsin, they had that farm for many years and then his wife passed away and he retired he decided to move back so just a few months ago he moved back up there I talked with him last week and he was having the furnace replaced in his house.

**Carl** That name sounds very familiar

**Olds** He was in the Rutland's Acquisition Program when the Dakota's first started out. He was in the reality end of the business for a long time in the Acquisition side.

**Carl** Well the name id familiar it must be a different Dixon or whatever I think there was one in administration some years back.

**Olds** I guess Harold is the only one that I could recall though, anything else there in your notes?

**Carl** Oh just to make some notes on what I thought for some of my major accomplishments or what you call it.

**Olds** Yeah I think that it probably would be.

**Carl** See I was quite busy being a Refugee Manager we had a lot of help which that will sound strangely until and probably to a lot of other people we had a NYA crew a WPA crew and 3 CCC camps we had like I said a lot and we were busy. We got a lot of things done.

**Olds** Well Who's refugee was this?

**Carl** Incida

**Olds** Incida

**Carl** Yeah In Minneapolis I worked quite a little bit with I don't know if you have heard of them. Art Healy he passed away he was Chief of Editions for years in Minneapolis I don't think he had one at the Washington.

**Olds** What was the last name now Healy

**Carl** Art Healy

**Olds** I don't think that I ever got a chance to met him.

**Carl** The two of us were quite active in obtaining surplus property for the service and we made any trips to Chicago and to Minneapolis and other places where surplus property existed. Even Atlanta and we obtained all of heavy equipment which the service really never had and never could afford. Like Drag mines big crawler tractors, almost anything that you can use on a large refugee. I think that probably for the efforts most of the refugee's particularly in region 3 but in other regions to pretty well staffed is not the right word but pretty well covered with heavy equipment through the Service source.

**Olds** Most of that came from the military following World War II?

**Carl** Yes

**Olds** I think that World War II Did you get to spend any time in the military here in that time?

**Carl** No I did not

**Olds** Got to stay at the home front?

**Carl** beside the guard and so many reasons that I was not referred because so many other fellows had been taken that there were not many left. They have to defermentary which I did not ask for and did not want. They got them and I had to take it.

**Olds** I guess that was about the time that the Headquarters of the Service moved out of Washington During World War II and spent some time in Chicago.

**Carl** Right that's right because a number of times I had to go to Chicago on Details and I never liked that.

**Olds** I could understand why I have always been glad to have a round trip ticket to Chicago.

**Carl** Well that's pretty much my list.

**Olds** Alright Well I certainly do appreciate it. Well when you were an original officer in Minneapolis I think you said you were doing both administration and refugees in Wildlife work do you remember who was the Regional Director at that time?

**Carl** Dan Jansen and also Oscar Johnson, Oscar succeeded then he moved to Washington I think that I probably retired under Oscar.

**Olds** ok Well I was just trying to think of any other questions that I could ask you. You mentioned that you had some children Would you like to tell about your children?

**Leone** Well we have a daughter that lives here and she has 3 children and we have a son here. Both of them live fairly close to us one 3 miles on way and one 3 miles the other way.

**Olds** Well that is great.

**Leone** Our son has 2 children and they are pretty well grown of course we enjoy them very much.

**Olds** What is your daughter's name?

**Leone** Carla after her Daddy

**Olds** Where was she born in your travels?

**Leone** She was born in Mauston Wisconsin.

**Olds** What is the son's name?

**Leone** Nicholas He call him Nick he would not want me to say Nicholas, but he likes his name Nick.

**Olds** Was he born in Wisconsin?

**Leone** He was born in Minneapolis

**Olds** Well that is great Well that is all I can think of why don't I go ahead and turn the recorder off and I thank you all very much for spending time with me today.